UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/991
28 July 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 47

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Letter dated 28 July 1993 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing to you on behalf of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, in connection with the decision to postpone action under agenda item 47, entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields", taken by the General Assembly at its 107th plenary meeting, held on 25 June 1993.

The membership of the Economic and Social Council has been following with the keenest interest the deliberations of the working group created by the General Assembly for this matter, so it was with disappointment that we learned of the aforementioned outcome.

It is essential that the necessary measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council be adopted expeditiously in order to enhance further the capacity of the Council to undertake the responsibilities envisaged for it in the Charter of the United Nations. This view was constantly and widely expressed during the current session of the Council by delegations of all regional groups, and United Nations officials throughout the high-level, coordination and operational segments.

Therefore, the Bureau wishes to convey to you that there is a widespread feeling shared among the member States of the Economic and Social Council on the urgent need to come to an agreement on this matter before the closure of the current session of the General Assembly.

It would be very positive if a decision on the matter is taken before the next General Assembly in order to expedite the necessary further action in the process of revitalization and restructuring, including the important question of the rationalization of the agendas of the Council and the relevant bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social fields.

The members of the Bureau remain at your disposal to assist you at your convenience in your endeavours on this matter.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under agenda item 47.

(Signed) Juan SOMAVIA
President
Economic and Social Council

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/992
S/26192
28 July 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 28 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 26 July 1993 (A/47/988-S/26165) concerning the facts of the extensive Israeli assault on Lebanese territory, I regret to inform you that Israel still persists today, for the fourth day in succession, in conducting air raids on Lebanese towns and villages, and the artillery of its occupying army continues to shell the villages of southern Lebanon with 175-mm and 155-mm field artillery and tank guns. This is being done with a view to causing maximum damage to people and property, in implementation of its declared plans to empty the south of its inhabitants, which thus far has led to the exodus of some 300,000 people towards the capital, Beirut, and confront the Lebanese Government with a dangerous social and political situation that will jeopardize its recent achievements in reunifying the country, extending order and the rule of law throughout its territory and pursuing a policy of national economic revival and growth after the well-known bloody and destructive events of the past. The Israeli forces have issued fresh warnings to the population of Sidon and Tyre to evacuate the cities because they will subsequently be subjected to Israeli bombardment.

This new Israeli aggression and its tragic and catastrophic consequences confirm Israel's resolute policy of undermining the stability of Lebanon, weakening its central authority, impeding its return to normalcy and frustrating its citizens' aspirations for a decent life in a prosperous country.

Persistent Israeli aggression at such a level of violence and with the aim, as stated by the Israeli Prime Minister, of inducing people to flee calls for a spontaneous response on the part of the Security Council to put an end to Israel's acts of murder, destruction and expulsion directed against Lebanese citizens and their property, and reaffirms the urgent need to work for an Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese south, in implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

The Israeli occupation, which has continued for 15 years, has not served the purpose of providing security for northern Israel. On the Lebanese side, it has claimed scores of lives, left hundreds wounded and inflicted continuous damage on property and vital utilities. Peace will not come to Lebanon and the region as long as Israel continues to occupy southern Lebanon. The latest military escalation threatens to exacerbate the cycle of violence and crushes all hope of bringing about the peace to which the peoples of the region aspire.

The following are the facts of the Israeli attacks over the past two days:

- At 1100 hours on the morning of Monday, 26 July 1993, Israeli fighter aircraft and helicopters carried out raids on Ain al-Hilwa camp east of Sidon.

- At 1215 hours, Israeli aircraft carried out a raid on Mashgara, Sohmor and Ain Tineh in the western Bekaa, destroying a number of private houses.

- At the same time, Israeli fighter aircraft conducted a raid on Wadi al-Sheikh in the western Bekaa, destroying two homes.

- At 1315 hours, fighter aircraft conducted a raid on the villages of Qana, Hannowieh, Kafra, Ramadieh and Siddiquin.

- At 1400 hours, Hmeiri was raided and at 1450 hours the raids targeted Qana, Aitit and Maaroub east of Tyre.

- At 1500 hours, a helicopter raid was conducted on Mahrouneh and Joaya east of Tyre and two Israeli helicopters strafed the wooded slopes of Jabal al-Rayhan with machine-gun fire.

- At 1700 hours, fighter aircraft conducted raids on the railway station near Ain al-Hilwa camp in Sidon, on Mayasseh farm in Iqlim al-Tuffah and on Salihiye east of Sidon. Raids were also carried out on Tibnin, Haris, Ain Bossoir, Jabaa, Zawtar al-Sharqiye and Zawtar al-Gharbiye.

- At 1730 hours, Israeli aircraft carried out raids on Nabatiye, Kfar Roumman, Zawtar, Kafr Tibnit, Haris, Aitit, Khirbat Silm, Kafra, Yatar, Jmeijmeh, Dayr Amis, Sultaniye, Siddiquin, Zahrani and Bossoir.

These air raids killed and wounded a number of civilians and caused extensive damage to the villages and to property. They were accompanied throughout the day and night by heavy Israeli shelling with 175-mm and 155-mm field artillery of Arabsalim, Jarjou, Jebaa, Ain Bossoir, Houmin al-Fawqa, Houmin al-Tahta, Kfarmelki, Mlita, Loueize, Jabal Safi and the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah. In the western Bekaa, the shelling was directed at the villages of Mashgara, Maidoun, Ain Tineh, Schmor, Yohmor and Zallaya. East of Tyre, it was directed against the villages of Aitit, Qana, Hannowieh, Dayr Amis, Hinniye, Qarih, Knayse, Siddiquin and Zibqin. In the afternoon, the shelling was directed against the villages of Mansouriye, Qalile, Maaroub, Braachit, Shaqra, Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, Kafra, Yatar, Qabrikha, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Sawwan, Barish, Safad al-Battikh, Touline, Tamriye and Souane.

In the central sector, the city of Nabatiye and its environs were subjected to heavy shelling throughout the day. The villages of Tibnin, Kfar Tibnit,

Zawtar, Maifadoun, Zifta, Aba, Doueir, Froun, Ghandouriye and Shoukine were also shelled.

The shelling left civilians dead and wounded, caused widespread damage and ignited many fires.

On Tuesday, 27 July 1993, the Israeli occupation forces continued their aggression. From 0400 hours onwards, Israeli aircraft carried out raids on the Maidoun heights, on Mashgara, Mlita, Jabaa, Loueize, Jabal Safi, Ain Bossoir, Jarjou and Kfar Hatta in Iqlim al-Tuffah and on Harouf, Jibchit, Jabal al-Ahmar, Zawtar al-Sharqiye, Zawtar al-Gharbiye, Haris, Kfar Tibnit and Kfar Roumman in the central sector. The raids were accompanied by heavy artillery shelling of most of the villages and towns of the south, especially the city of Nabatiye, on which hundreds of incendiary phosphorus bombs fell, making it impossible to count casualties and preventing ambulance teams from reaching them. Shelling was also directed against most of the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah and the towns and villages of the western Bekaa.

Positions of the international forces were exposed to Israeli raids and the positions of the Lebanese Army in Habbouch, Arabsalim, Maifadoun, Khartoum and Kfar Tibnit came under fire.

The number of casualties as of yesterday - Tuesday, 27 July 1993 - came to 53 dead and 200 wounded. In addition, over a quarter of a million people have fled from southern Lebanon in the direction of Beirut.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/993
S/26195
29 July 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 45
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 28 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 28 July 1993 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the recent violent demonstrations and acts of provocation perpetrated by Greek Cypriots in the United Nations-controlled Buffer Zone in Cyprus and at our borders, and to express the Turkish Cypriot side's indignation and concern at this new manifestation of Greek Cypriot hostility towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

As the spokesman of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in Nicosia has also reported in his relevant statement issued on 26 July 1993, several hundred Greek Cypriots, most of them on motorcycles, staged violent demonstrations at a number of locations along the Buffer Zone on 25 July 1993. Some of them broke through UNFICYP barriers and attacked UNFICYP personnel with rocks and other missiles, injuring a dozen of them and causing damage to United Nations property.

At three locations, the Greek Cypriot aggressors came within a short distance of our borders, and at "Dherinia", where they were joined by other groups bringing their number to about 2,000, they attacked members of the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces with rocks, "Molotov cocktails" and similar other missiles, at the same time hurling insults at them. As a result, no fewer than 26 members of our Security Forces suffered injuries, and damage was caused to property. The perpetrators also set part of the Buffer Zone on fire.

The demonstrations were reported to have been organized by "LOGOS" radio and television, an organ of the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus, which is known for its militant, anti-Turkish stance, and by a Greek Cypriot youth organization. However, in view of the fact that such acts of provocation are generally encouraged and supported by the Greek Cypriot authorities as a matter of policy, in order to create artificial tension in the island and keep the Cyprus issue high on the agenda of the international community, there can be no doubt that the recent incidents also had the blessing of the Greek Cypriot Administration.

The well-planned and organized nature of the incidents, the failure of the Greek Cypriot police to stop them and their refusal to cooperate with UNFICYP in containing the aggressive behaviour of the demonstrators testify to the above. This is also borne out by the UNFICYP spokesman's above-mentioned statement, in which it is stated that "the maintenance of the integrity of the Buffer Zone is the responsibility of UNFICYP alone. It requires also the full cooperation of the public at large and especially of the police authorities. Such cooperation was clearly lacking yesterday".

By contrast, the restraint shown by the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces prevented these provocative incidents from turning into a wider confrontation, as again confirmed by the UNFICYP spokesman's statement in the following terms: "Had these events not been met by a conscientious response on the part of UNFICYP and restraint by the Forces on the Turkish Cypriot side, there could have been very serious consequences."

The manner in which the incidents were reported in the Greek Cypriot press the following day is also highly significant in terms of showing the public reaction and mentality prevalent on the Greek Cypriot side. Headlines such as "Message From Our Youth - War With Attila"; "Our Youths Have Demonstrated Courage and a Fighting Spirit - A Blow to Attila"; "Hand-to-Hand Clash With the Invader"; and "It Is Faster to Kyrenia by Motorcycle" are the epitome of chauvinism and reveal the hostile intentions that the Greek Cypriots in general harbour against their Turkish Cypriot neighbours. In fact, some of the slogans used by the demonstrators during these incidents leave no room for doubt as to what those intentions are: "Cyprus is Greek", "Attila out of Cyprus", "Turks are not our kin, they are our enemies", etc.

This latest demonstration of hostility on the part of the Greek Cypriot side is neither compatible with civilized, good-neighbourly relations nor with the establishment of trust between the two communities in Cyprus. It clearly renders Your Excellency's efforts in that direction all the more difficult and sets the stage for more serious incidents in the future with unforeseen consequences. I therefore hope that Your Excellency will do what you can to stop this harmful and dangerous trend on the Greek Cypriot side by impressing upon them that they alone will have to bear the responsibility for the consequences of their aggressive actions.

I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/994*
S/26196*
2 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to the letter dated 28 July 1993 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine (A/48/284-S/26191), I would like to state the following.

Lebanon appreciates the concern expressed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization over what is happening to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, who are suffering along with the people of Lebanon under Israel's brutal onslaught. Lebanon shares its feelings and is as concerned for these refugees as it is for its own citizens.

However, Lebanon cannot accept that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization has taken it upon itself to call for immediate consideration of this matter by the Security Council. Lebanon has already requested an urgent meeting of the Council, which is its exclusive right. No party other than the Government of Lebanon and its Permanent Representative to the United Nations can call on the Council to discuss the issue of Israel's aggression against Lebanon. This subject falls expressly within the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the Lebanese Government.

The request of the Permanent Observer of Palestine, although well intended, constitutes an interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation and State Member of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

---

* Reissued for technical reasons.

93-43189 (E) 020893

020893

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/995
S/26202
30 July 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 30 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our recent letters concerning the large-scale Israeli assault on Lebanon, the last of which was issued as document A/47/992-S/26192, I regret to inform you that the Israeli Government has continued to implement its hostile plans today, for the sixth day in succession, in spite of repeated international appeals to halt its military operations over Lebanese territory.

Systematic and concentrated air raids and fierce artillery shelling have continued, completely destroying dozens of villages and causing half a million people to flee in the direction of Beirut and other areas to the north. It seems clear from the statements of Israeli leaders and from the tragic situation in Lebanon that the new Israeli onslaught is aimed directly at innocent civilians and is designed to create a new "fact on the ground" that places a new burden on the shoulders of the debilitated State, thwarting the Lebanese Government's efforts and plans to build up its institutions and implement its reconstruction and development plans and undermining its achievements of the past two years.

As of 29 July 1993, Israel's scorched earth policy in southern Lebanon had left more than 110 dead and thousands wounded and had caused hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damages to buildings, property and public utilities.

The tragic bloodshed of which the Lebanese people are the victims today has increased their determination to liberate their occupied territory. It reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the Security Council fulfils its obligation to implement its resolution 425 (1978) and to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, which has been the root cause of the critical and explosive situation in that area for the past 15 years. It is unacceptable that Israel and its military apparatus should be allowed to pursue its arrogant

and destructive policy endlessly in southern Lebanon. The facts confirm its failure to achieve the security aims it has been proclaiming over the years. It would be more to the purpose to work for the implementation of international legitimacy, preserving Lebanon's sovereignty and providing security for the people living on both sides of the border. That would imply a withdrawal by Israel to its international frontier with Lebanon, giving the Lebanese Government the opportunity to impose its authority in the south by means of its lawful forces, in cooperation with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The following are the facts of the Israeli attacks on 28 and 29 July 1993:

- On 28 July, in the central sector of southern Lebanon, Israeli fighter aircraft and Cobra helicopters carried out scores of raids on villages in the area and on the town of Nabatiye, reducing parts of it to rubble. Napalm was used in the raids, causing widespread fires. Raids were directed against Douair, destroying homes and the mosque, Zawtar al-Charqiye, Zawtar al-Gharbiye, Haruf, Tibnine, Charqiye, whose mosque and school were destroyed, Zibdine, Kafr Sir, Maifadoun, Kafr Roumman, Choukine, Habbouch and Jibchit. This was followed by heavy artillery shelling which caused heavy damage.

- In the region of Iqlim al-Tuffah, missiles fell on the woodland and on the villages of Jarjouh and Ain Bossoir, both of which were completely destroyed, Mlita, Jabal Safi, Arabsalim, Kfar Milke, Kfar Hata, Loueize, Houmine, Mlikh and Kafr Fila.

- In the Tyre area, the raids targeted not only homes but also shelters, reducing them to debris. They were directed against the villages of Haris, Maaroub, Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Qlaile, Adchit, Jouaiya, Bazouriye, Henniye, Qarie and Yatar.

The aircraft also targeted civilian cars carrying displaced persons between Chaabiye and Kafr Dounine, setting them and their passengers on fire.

Jibchit, Qaaqaaiyet al-Jisr, Braachit, Majdal Silm, Soultaniye, Haddatha, Aita al-Jabal, Qana and other villages were shelled by field artillery.

- In the Bekaa, aircraft carried out raids on the villages of Maidoun, Machghara, Ain al-Tine, Baiyade, Birket Jibour, Zillaya, Sohmor, Yohmor and Tallousse, turning their houses into rubble.

- In Sidon and its environs, the city and its outskirts were subjected to shelling by gunboats from the sea. Dozens of shells fell on the area, claiming many victims, igniting fires and causing extensive damage to property.

In many cases, it was impossible to reach the victims because of intensive bombardment. Moreover, ambulances were fired at by Israeli aircraft and helicopters.

- On 29 July 1993, the Israeli military machinery of destruction continued to attack villages in the central sector, using F-15 and F-16 aircraft and Cobra helicopters. The town of Nabatiye was specially targeted, as were the villages of Habbouch, Ghassaniye, Ansar, Maifadoun and Charqiye. Israeli

aircraft continued to pursue civilian cars carrying displaced persons, setting them on fire and causing dozens of casualties.

- In Iqlim al-Tuffah, villages were set on fire by phosphorus bombs and Jabaa, Ain Bossoir, Mlita, Kfar Milke, Kfar Hata, Kfar Fila, Houmine, Arabsalim and Ain Qana were subjected to artillery shelling and air raids.

- In the Bekaa, Israeli aircraft continued their operations against civilian homes and ambulances, causing deaths and injuries. The artillery shelling was directed against the villages of Ain al-Tine, Maidoun, Jabal al-Zahr, Sohmor, Yohmor, Loueize, Qlaiya, Baiyade, Zillaya and Libbaya.

- In the Tyre and Bent Jbail area, Israeli aircraft used napalm in shelling Chaqra. The bombing targeted a shelter housing more than 20 families in Majdal Silm, killing and wounding many. The Irish UNIFIL unit in Barich was exposed to 155-mm artillery shelling, which set fire to a number of vehicles.

Israeli raids also targeted positions of the Lebanese army in Ras al-Ain, killing one and wounding another. The shelling of the villages of Mjeidil, Arzoun, Srifa, Chaabiye, Qabrikha, Jbal al-Botm, Jouaiya, Bazouriye, Qarie, Aitit, Soultaniye, Siddiquine, Adchit and Braachit left dozens of civilians dead and wounded.

In the Sidon area, Israeli aircraft continued their raids and flights over the city and its environs. Missiles and bombs were directed against the camp of Ain al-Hilwe and villages east of Sidon and in the Naame hills. This was accompanied by shelling from Israeli gunboats.

The Israeli forces are carrying out field tests of an Israeli-made air-to-surface missile, which is fired from Cobra helicopters. It has been fired from a number of different heights and positions at civilian cars and fixed targets.

Today, 29 July 1993, there has been an increase in the ratio of civilian casualties and in the number of persons fleeing towards Beirut.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/996
S/26221
2 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 35
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 2 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is regrettable that the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, in his letter (A/48/287-S/26201) dated 30 July 1993, saw fit once more to interfere in the internal affairs of Lebanon by reiterating his demand that the Security Council consider immediately the situation resulting from the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The Palestinian civilians, who live in the refugee camps and were subjected along with Lebanese civilians to Israel's savage and brutal attack, reside on Lebanese national soil. Their presence in Lebanon and the regulation of their livelihood, including their safety and protection fall strictly within the jurisdiction of Lebanese law.

It is an accepted maxim of international law that every sovereign nation has the power, as is inherent in sovereignty and essential to self-preservation, to protect and safeguard the well-being of its citizens and all others who live on its territory.

Consequently, we reiterate the position of the Government of Lebanon that the matter of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and the convening of the Security Council to deal with it, remains the exclusive right of Lebanon because it falls totally within its jurisdiction and sovereignty.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

93-43276 (E) 020893

020893

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/997
S/26248
5 August 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 36
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND
PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION
OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY
AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 5 August 1993 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from His Excellency Ernesto Leal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua (see annex), inviting you to appoint a mission to observe in situ the updating of the weapons inventories periodically carried out by the Nicaraguan army, an operation that the Nicaraguan Government sees as a further step in its policy of transparency in military affairs and as an additional confidence-building measure in the region. The mission could visit Nicaragua during the last week of August 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Erich VILCHEZ ASHER
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 July 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of Nicaragua is deeply committed to the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America. With that in view, we consider that the progress achieved in democratization and regional pacification should give rise to a vigorous and comprehensive process to reduce armaments and military forces with a view to establishing a reasonable balance of forces in the region.

As far as Nicaragua is concerned, this is one of the fundamental aims of the domestic and foreign policy of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. In this spirit, we have developed a series of domestic initiatives which have achieved substantial reductions in the army, as well as a decrease in armaments and the military budget.

With regard to foreign policy, we have promoted a series of initiatives within the framework of the Summit Meetings of the Central American Presidents and, in particular, through the Security Commission of the Central American countries, designed to restrict to a minimum the number of military and security forces and the quantity of weapons in the region.

Guided by its desire for peace, the Nicaraguan Government has on two occasions transmitted to you the inventory of military equipment, armaments and installations and the census of military and security forces personnel in the Republic of Nicaragua, in an effort to update periodically our military situation and cultivate a policy of complete transparency and commitment to the demilitarization of Central America. We have also transmitted to you a report on transfers of weapons.

As a further demonstration of the Nicaraguan Government's desire for peace, we wish to invite you to appoint a mission to observe in situ the updating of the weapons inventories periodically carried out by the Nicaraguan army, an operation intended as a further step in our policy of transparency in military affairs and as an additional confidence-building measure in the region. I am also requesting the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States to appoint a mission to participate jointly in this important task with the United Nations observers. The mission could visit Nicaragua during the last week of August 1993.

I should like to express once again our gratitude for your continuing efforts to achieve stability and peace in Central America.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ernesto LEAL SANCHEZ
Minister